

# Exhibit J

Volume: 2  
Pages: 96  
Exhibits: Per Index

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL, ss.  
Indictment No. 2002-0773

SUPERIOR COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

vs.

FRANCESCO CIAMBRIELLO

BEFORE: CHIN, J.

TRIAL TRANSCRIPT

APPEARANCES:

**Jeanne M. Veenstra, Assistant District Attorney,**  
Bristol District, 888 Purchase Street, New Bedford,  
Massachusetts 02740, for the Commonwealth.

**David R. Ardito, Esq.,** BISIO & DUPONT, 228 County  
Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703, for the Defendant.

New Bedford Superior Courthouse  
New Bedford, Massachusetts  
Thursday, November 20, 2003

---

MARILYN SILVIA  
Official Court Reporter

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE CLERK: Mr. Ardito would this be a  
3 change of plea?

4 MR. ARDITO: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Ciambriello, would you  
6 please stand and raise your right hand.

7 (Defendant sworn.)

8 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

9 THE COURT: Take the stand, please.  
10 Is this an agreed upon disposition?

11 MS. VEENSTRA: It is, your Honor.

12 MR. ARDITO: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Can you tell me what  
14 the agreement is.

15 MS. VEENSTRA: The agreement with  
16 regard to the BRCCR2002-0773-2, the Commonwealth  
17 is prepared to nolle pros all that exceeds simple  
18 assault and battery upon this Court's acceptance  
19 of this defendant's guilty plea.

20 The agreed upon recommendation is that  
21 this defendant be sentenced to two years  
22 supervised probation with the condition of no  
23 direct or indirect contact with the complainant,  
24 Heather Kiernan, and the imposition of the victim

1 witness fee.

2 Francesco Ciambriello, Sworn

3 BY THE COURT:

4 Q. Sir, I'm going to ask you some questions before I  
5 accept your guilty plea, and the reason I'm  
6 asking you these questions is to make sure your  
7 that guilty plea is voluntary and that you  
8 understand the consequences of your guilty plea.  
9 If you don't understand any of these questions,  
10 please stop me.

11 Would you tell us your name for the  
12 record.

13 A. Francesco Antonio Ciambriello.

14 Q. And how old are you, sir?

15 A. Forty-nine.

16 Q. How far did you go in school?

17 A. Two years college.

18 Q. And have you ever been treated for a mental  
19 condition and are you aware of any mental illness  
20 that you now have?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Have you taken any drugs or medication today?

23 A. Only take medication for pain.

24 Q. And when did you take that?

1 A. This morning, 5:00.

2 Q. What are you taking?

3 A. Tromidol, Neurotin, Motrin, Protonec, and I don't  
4 know, I can't recall the name

5 (REPORTER'S NOTE: The above medications are  
6 spelled phonetically and difficult to  
7 decipher as the defendant has a heavy accent.)

8 Q. Do these medications affect your ability to  
9 understand the questions I'm asking you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And are you under the influence of alcohol?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you understand that the charge against you now  
14 is assault and battery?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you understand that your attorney and the  
17 assistant district attorney have reached an  
18 agreement as to a disposition in this case?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And do you understand that I would not exceed  
21 that recommendation without giving you an  
22 opportunity to withdraw your guilty plea? Do you  
23 understand that?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And do you understand that by pleading guilty  
2 you're giving up your absolute right to have a  
3 fair and impartial trial to determine your guilt  
4 or innocence either with or without a jury?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you also understand that by pleading guilty  
7 you are waiving your right to face your accusers  
8 and question them and other witnesses that appear  
9 against you and to present evidence in your own  
10 defense?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you also understand that by pleading guilty  
13 you're waiving your right to exercise your  
14 privilege against self-incrimination?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And do you also understand that by pleading  
17 guilty you're waiving your right to appeal any  
18 motions to suppress evidence that may have been  
19 filed in this case?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And do you also understand that you are waiving  
22 your right to be presumed innocent until proven  
23 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt by the  
24 Commonwealth?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And has your lawyer explained to you the maximum  
3 penalty for this offense?

4 A. Yes.

5 THE COURT: Do you want to give me a  
6 brief outline of the facts the Commonwealth is  
7 relying upon.

8 MS. VEENSTRA: The Commonwealth would  
9 allege that this defendant on May 19th in the  
10 year 2001, in Attleboro, did touch the person of  
11 Heather Kiernan without her consent.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 Q. Did you hear the facts as stated by the assistant  
14 district attorney?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you in fact commit those acts?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you understand by pleading guilty you admit  
19 that those facts are true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you plead guilty willingly, freely and  
22 voluntarily?

23 A. I don't understand the question.

24 Q. Do you plead guilty willingly, freely and

1 voluntarily? Is this something you're doing --

2 A. Willingly, yes.

3 Q. Has anyone forced to you to plead guilty?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have any promises or threats been made which have  
6 induced you to plead guilty?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Has your lawyer explained the elements of the  
9 crime to which you are pleading guilty?

10 A. About the probation, yes.

11 Q. And have you had enough time to fully discuss  
12 your rights, defenses and possible consequences  
13 of this guilty plea with your attorney?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And has your lawyer discussed and explained to  
16 you all the options available to you in the event  
17 you choose to proceed to trial?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And do you feel that your lawyer has acted in  
20 your best interest?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. And are you confused in any way by the questions  
23 I have asked you?

24 A. No.



1 Q. As I understand it, you are pleading guilty  
2 because you are guilty and for no other reason;  
3 is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you understand that if you are not a United  
6 States citizen, under federal law, a guilty plea  
7 to this offense may result in deportation,  
8 exclusion from the United States, or denial of  
9 naturalization? Do you understand that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you have a chance to read this form called  
12 Waiver of Defendant's Rights?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you signed it --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- on the back?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And did you understand what was in here?

19 A. Yes.

20 THE COURT: I find the plea has been  
21 made voluntarily with knowledge of its  
22 consequences and is hereby accepted.

23 You can step down, sir.

24 THE CLERK: Francisco Ciambriello, on

1 Indictment 2002-0773-2, as to so much of this  
2 indictment as alleges assault and battery, how do  
3 you plead, guilty or not guilty?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

5 THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to be  
6 heard on disposition?

7 MS. VEENSTRA: Your Honor I just ask  
8 you to accept the joint recommendation.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. ARDITO: No, thank you. We just  
11 ask you to accept our recommendation.

12 THE CLERK: Francesco Ciambriello, on  
13 Indictment 2002-0773-2, after pleading guilty to  
14 so much of this indictment as alleges assault and  
15 battery, and the Court having accepted your plea  
16 of guilty, it's the order of this Court that you  
17 be placed on probation for a period of two  
18 years. This probation is to be supervised, and  
19 you are ordered to stay away from and have no  
20 contact with the alleged victim, Heather  
21 Kiernan.

22 The Court has imposed a victim witness  
23 fee in the amount of \$90, and a probation service  
24 fee in the amount of \$65 per month. Please see

1           probation before you leave the building today.

2                   MR. ARDITO: Thank you, your Honor.

3                   **(Matter concluded.)**

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

CERTIFICATE

I, Marilyn J. Silvia, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing record, Pages 1 through 9, is a complete, accurate, and true transcription of my stenographic notes taken in the aforementioned matter to the best of my skills and ability.

  
MARILYN J. SILVIA  
Official Court Reporter